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Page 1.

Adam White
Public Health Office,

Ironmarket,

Newcastle, ~~and~~ *and* Staffs.
Staffordshire.

April 2nd. 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report
on the Health of the Borough for the year 1925.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of
Health the report, as well as dealing with matters arising during
that year, deals generally with the progress made during the last
five years and with the history of infectious diseases etc. during
that period.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ADAM WHITE,

M.O.H.

HUMAN AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF LIVELIHOOD

AREA. 905 acres.

Estimated 1925 21530.

Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

The Borough is situated on both sides of a valley, the soil being mainly clay on the East side and largely red sand stone on the West. The average altitude is about 402 feet above ordnance datum. The river Lyme flows through the Borough from North to South, finally discharging into the river Trent some distance South of the Borough.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921) 4301.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921) 4198.

Rateable Value £795/4.6.0.

One penny Rate in the £. (Borough Rate) produces £297.

One penny rate in the s. (General District Rate) produces £295

Social Conditions

The chief centres of industry in the Borough are a large clothing factory, a bone works, a paper mill, and 7 fustian cutting mills. The town is not, however, essentially an industrial one, but mainly residential in character, a large proportion of artisans being employed outside the area in the coal, iron, tile, and pottery industries of the neighbouring districts. In addition, the Borough serves as a shopping centre for contiguous areas.

Vital Statistics for the Year

		Total	Male	Female.
Births.	Legitimate	485	266	217
	Illegitimate	17	6	11

Birth Rate (R.G.) 23.2

Deaths 292 Males 144 Females 148.

Death Rate (R.G.) 13.6

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth:-

(a) From Sepsis nil.

(b) Other causes nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births:-

Legitimate 83. Illegitimate 117.6 Total 84.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 7.

Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages) 11.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 8.

The birth-rate, 23.2 per thousand, is higher than that of England and Wales as a whole and than the rates for any of the divisions into which the country is divided for statistical purposes. It is higher than the corresponding Borough rates for last year and for the previous year, although not up to the average pre-war rate.

The death-rate, 13.6 per thousand, is lower than any rate previously experienced in the area except those of the years 1920 and 1922. The rate is a degree higher than the rate for England and Wales. This is accounted for by the slight relative excess of deaths due to respiratory diseases, acute and chronic nephritis, tuberculosis, violence, and arteria^o-sclerosis and cerebral haemorrhage. The causes of these relative increases are probably to be found largely in the occupations of the people.

The infantile mortality rate, 84 per thousand births, is the lowest ever recorded in the borough. It is, however, somewhat



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higher than the rate for the country generally. During the year there was a very destructive epidemic of whooping-cough which produced an infantile death-rate of 16 per thousand births. The average corresponding rate for the country generally is much less - and if it had not been for this epidemic the general infantile mortality rate would have been lower than the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

Table 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH

			M.	F.
	All Causes		144	148
1.	Measles	...	2	5
2.	Scaræt fever	...	2	2
3.	Whooping-cough	...	6	5
4.	Diphtheria	...	2	2
5.	Influenza	...	6	2
6.	Encephalitis lethargica	...	1	1
7.	Meningococcal meningitis	...		
8.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	8	11
9.	Other tuberculous diseases	...	4	1
10.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	11	16
11.	Rheumatic fever	...	2	
12.	Diabetes	...	1	2
13.	Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	...	7	8
14.	Heart disease	...	7	19
15.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	9	4
16.	Bronchitis	...	15	9
17.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	15	15
18.	Other respiratory diseases	...	4	1
19.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...		
20.	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	7	1
21.	Appendicitis and typhlitis			
22.	Cirrhosis of liver	...	1	
23.	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	2	4
24.	Puerperal sepsis	...		
25.	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...		
26.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	6	5
27.	Suicide	...	2	
28.	Other deaths from violence	...	5	8
29.	Other defined diseases	...	20	26
30.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	1	1

Amount of Poor Law Relief

I am indebted to Mr. D. J. Lovatt, Clerk to the Guardians, for the information that the total amount of Out Relief granted by the Guardians in Newcastle Parish during the year 1885 was £37 69.

Extent to which Hospital are utilized.

Mr. W. Stevenson, the Secretary and House Governor of the North
Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, has been good enough to inform me that
during the year under review 271 in-patients, and 1606 out-patients
coming from Newcastle were treated at that institution.

Causes of sickness.

Sickness due to and the incidence of the infectious diseases is dealt with in the section on the prevalence of these diseases. Otherwise there is nothing noteworthy to record.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other institutions available for the Borough.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

A. General. There are two general Nurses in the Borough in the service of the Newcastle Nursing Association. There is no financial arrangement between the Local authority and the Association.

B. For Infectious Diseases e.g. Measles etc.

A tentative arrangement has been made between the Council and the Newcastle District Nursing Association for the home nursing of children suffering from complicated measles. The fee paid by the Council to the Association is 1/6 per visit made by a Nurse.

Midwives.

There are eight midwives practising in the area. Seven of these are trained, and one is untrained. None of them is subsidised.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, financed by the Local Authority, is held in the Congregational Church Schools, King St., The accommodation consists of covered space for prams, a large hall where babies are weighed etc, and rooms in which the Medical Officers interview the mothers and examine the children.

A School Clinic, financed by the Education Committee, is held at No.14 King St. There are two waiting rooms and a treatment room.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary, maintained by the Staffs. Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Tuberculosis Committee, is situated at No. 6 Merriall St.

A Venereal Diseases Centre provided and maintained under arrangements made between the County Council, the City Council of Stoke-on-Trent and the governors of the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary is in operation at the Infirmary which is situated in the adjoining City of Stoke-on-Trent.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(1) Tuberculosis.
The Tuberculosis Authority for the area is the Staffs. Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Tuberculosis Committee, and sanatoria are provided by that Committee, at Groundslow, Harnfield, Himley etc. All these institutions are situated outside the Borough. The total beds maintained number 3784.

(2) Fever.

The Newcastle Isolation Hospital is a 26 bed hospital for the treatment of cases of Scarletina, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever. It is situated in the Borough and serves the Borough and the Newcastle Rural District with a combined estimated population of 37745.

(3) Small-pox.

The Newcastle Borough Council is one of the authorities which form the North Staffs. Joint Small-pox Hospital Board which administers

the small-pox Hospital, Bagnall situated in Leek Rural District. This hospital contains 54 beds.

(4) Ambulance Facilities.

There is a horse ambulance, provided by the Borough Council for the removal of cases to the Isolation Hospital. A motor ambulance maintained by the Corporation, is available for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

1. Medical Officer of Health who is also Medical Officer of health of the Wolstanton United Urban District and School Medical Officer for both areas.

2. Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts, etc.

This Officer holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and the Certificate granted by the Institute with regard to the Inspection of meat and other foods.

3. Two Nurses. (whole time) It is ~~estimated~~ estimated that the time of each of these nurses is taken up as follows; -

School Work	50%
Maternity and Child Welfare Work.	50%

4. One clerk, temporary.

5. The hospital porter carries out disinfections under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

Chemical Work

Specimens under the Food and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream Regulations are dealt with by Mr. E.V. Jones of Wolverhampton who is the Borough Analyst. The results of the examination of the samples taken during the year are stated in the appropriate section.

Legislation in Force.

Acts.

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.
The Public Health Acts, (Amendment) Act 1907,
Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.
The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890.

Part 6 of the 1907 Act and the adoptive portions of the Public Health Act 1925 are in process of being adopted.

Bye Laws

Date of Adoption.

Relating to:-

New Streets and Buildings	Feb. 2nd. 1894
Common Lodging-houses	" "
Houses let-in-lodgings	" "
Slaughter-houses	" "
Offensive Trades	" "

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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Water

The water supply of the district is obtained from the works of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board of which the Council is a Constituent Authority. The supply is on the constant system and at the rate of, approximately, 25 gallons per head of the population per day. All the houses in the Borough, with the exception of 5 are supplied from this source. These 5 houses are supplied from springs.

I am indebted to Mr. K.C. Fraim, Engineer and Manager of the Water Board, for the following information.

So far as Newcastle is concerned all water supplied is pumped from deep wells in the new red sandstone, the Pumping Stations being at Hatton and Mill Meece. This water is pumped to a Service Reservoir at Hanchurch, from which the entire District concerned is served. As a portion of Newcastle is on a low pressure system of distribution the pressure for that portion is broken by a small reservoir situated off Shelton New Road.

The following is an analysis of the water, the amounts being stated as grains per gallon.

Total solid matter dried at 322 F.	11.56
Free and saline ammonia	0.000
Albuminoid ammonia.....	0.001
Nitrate Nitrogen.....	0.84
Combined Chlorine.....	0.84
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 F.....	0.000
Colour through 2 feet.....	very pale bluish tinge
Appearance.....	clear
Hardness before boiling.....	7.95
" after boiling.....	5.40
" temporary	2.56

The water is of excellent quality for drinking, domestic, and industrial purposes.

Rivers and streams.

The Lyne Brook flows through the Borough from North to South, discharging into the River Trent at a point some distance south of the Borough boundary.

Although this brook receives some trade waste from Collieries and from Bye-product works, and also the effluents from Silverdale Sewage Works and Holditch Sewage Farm, both of which are situated in the Wollaton United Urban District, and the surface washings from the streets of the Borough, no serious instance of pollution occurred during the year.

However, as there is undoubtedly a large amount of waste matter of various kinds going into this stream which is liable to lead to a certain degree of nuisance during hot weather, it would be a great advantage if it could be culverted at least at the points at which it is most contiguous to dwellings.

Drainage and sewerage

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is discharged into the Lyne Brook. The sewage proper gravitates to works situated to the south of the Borough. At these works the sewage, after preliminary screening, is passed through subsidence tanks of which there are 8 with a total capacity of

of 763,000 gallons. From the tanks the sewage is received into a circular well (25' dia. by 8' 6" deep) from which it is pumped to the percolating filter beds. Of these there are six. Each is 112' in diameter and contains 5' of material vertically, and is operated by an Adams rotary pipe distributor. The land available consists of 11 acres, which area is underdrained for storm water, and 18 acres, which portion is available for sludge etc. The amount of sewage arriving at these works is not accurately known at present. Recently a gauge has been installed and when this has been in operation for some little time accurate figures will be available.

Closet accommodation.

At the end of 1925 there were existing:-

Privies with fixed receptacles	4.
Pail closets	10.
Waste water closets	56.
Water closets	4681.
(Approximately 1973 of these are hand flushed)	

During recent years considerable progress has been made in conversion, the number of privies having been reduced to the present level from 90 in 1919. In that year the number of pail closets was 33. The instances in which privies and pail closets remain are largely accounted for by difficulties in obtaining connection with a sewer. The hand flushed closets are being systematically dealt with under Section 36 of the Public Health Act 1875 and during the year under review 106 of them have been provided with a proper flushing apparatus.

Scavenging.

There are approximately 90 covered ashpits and 4528 ashbins in the Borough. The number of ashpits has been reduced to the present number ^{from} 600 in 1919 and the number of bins has been correspondingly increased. In November 1920 the Council decided to purchase bins in quantity for sale to owners at cost price plus a small charge

for delivery etc. Since that date 1195 bins have been sold. The scheme has had the effect of stimulating owners to replace pits by bins. During the year 1925 108 bins were sold and 172 were replaced by the Council in pursuance of an arrangement by which, if an owner provides a bin of approved type, the Council replaces it when unserviceable, free of cost.

The collection of house refuse is made weekly in the case of bins and less frequently, but as occasion demands, from ashpits. House refuse is disposed of by tipping. The Council has at present under consideration a scheme for the installation of a refuse disposal plant at the Sewage Works, and it is anticipated that this will be in operation in the near future, when the tip will cease to be used.

The contents of the few privies etc. are dealt with on farm land.

Mr. Holden, the Sanitary Inspector, presents the following

Summary of the work done in his department during the year:-

Dwellings - houses House Drains -	Inspections and Observations made	Number of defects found	Abatement Notices	Nuisances abated after notice by	
				Formal by Authority.	Inspector. Authority.
Foul Conditions	14	7	7		7
Defective floors, walls and ceilings.	331	146	146	36	72
Whitewashing	149	70	70	15	37
Defective windows and windows not made to open.	146	67	67	15	42
Defective roofs and spouting.	166	79	79	15	46
Defective firegrates and washboilers	35	17	17	5	12
Ashpits and Privies	109	56	56	9	41
Water closets	104	50	50	7	33
Other faults	42	19	19		17
No cisterns to W.C.'s	259	115	115	14	98
Absence of sinks	13	5	5	1	3
Absence of water supply over sink	19	9	9	4	5
Blocked Drains	85	14	14		14
Animals improperly kept.	59	19	19		19
Other Nuisances	205	93	93	2	86
Total	1554	736	766	123	526
					113

Number of Seizures	...	...	...	...	...	94
Condemned by Magistrates	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Prosecutions for exposing for sale	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	60
Number found adulterated &c.	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Number of Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	nil.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or destroyed	...	86
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases	...	86

The following table shows the administration of the Factories and Workshops Act:-

1. Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspect- ions.	Written notices	Prose- cutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	9		
Works. ops (including Workshops Laundries)	36	6	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers)	2		
Total	45	6	nil.

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Nature of Work			
	Find d	Remi- tied	Refferr'd to M.M.	Prosecu- tions.
		Inspector		
Want of Cleanliness	... ...	2	2	
Want of Ventilation	... ...		
Other Nuisances	... ...	2	2	
Sanitary) Insufficient				
) Unsuitable or				
Accommodation) defective.	2	2		
Total	6	6	nil.	nil.

3. Homework Outworkers' Lists.

Lists received from Employers
sending once in the year

Lists Contractors.

Wearing Apparel nil. nil.

4. Registered Workshops.

Workshops	...	...	...	145
" bakehouses	...	...		14
Total	...	...		159

5. Other Matters.

Action taken in matters referred by H.H. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Acts.

Notified by H.H. Inspector 3. reports (of action taken) sent to H.H. Inspector. 3.

Underground bakehouses in use at end of year nil.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws etc.

Byelaws are in force for the supervision of Common Lodging Houses of which there are 7, Slaughter-houses of which there are 13, Offensive Trades of which there are 37, and Houses let-in-Lodgings of which there are none at present. The Common Lodging Houses are under Police inspection.

The Offensive Trades are :-

Bone Works	1.
Fellmongers	2.
Rag & Bone Dealers	6.
Fish Fryers	28.

Other Sanitary Conditions.

A certain degree of nuisance from smell has arisen from time to time in periods of hot weather from stagnant water in the bed of the old canal. The Council has had under consideration methods designed to obviate this nuisance and it is hoped that in a short time it will be abated.

Schools.

Generally speaking, the hygienic conditions in the schools are good. Although there may be minor defects, the water supply, heating, lighting, ventilation, equipment etc. are adequate. During the year Hassell St., School has been painted and decorated and the playground of Rye Croft Girls School has been relaid.

HOUSING
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General Housing Conditions.

The majority of the houses are of the working class type; many of them are of an old date and defects such as bad window construction are constantly being dealt with. Owing to the shortage of housing accommodation for the working classes there has been allowed a certain latitude in housing conditions pending the making up of the shortage.

Housing Shortage.

According to the Housing Survey made in 1919, the number of houses required during the ensuing three years to meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking into account growth of population etc.) was 450. According to the same survey the total number of houses needed was 744, this number including houses necessary to replace unfit dwellings and houses which, although they could not be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fell definitely below a reasonable standard. Since the date of the survey 246 houses of the type dealt with have been erected. The estimated population of the town has increased from 21200 in 1922 (the last year which the survey took into account in it's forecast of the number of houses required) to 21530 in 1925. For this increase of 330 in population one may estimate that an additional 66 houses would be required. It will therefore be apparent that, on the basis of the 1919 survey and taking into account the increase of population between 1922 and 1925 and the number of houses erected between 1920 and 1925 (both years inclusive,) the present shortage of houses is approximately 270 for the unsatisfied demand and 564 for all purposes. The present housing scheme of the Council is designed to mitigate this shortage.

Overcrowding.

Overcrowding was discovered in four or 2.8 per cent of the 142 houses inspected under the housing (Inspection of District) regulations 1910. In 1920 the corresponding percentage was 7. In the cases of the four houses in which overcrowding existed one of the houses had three bedrooms and the remaining three houses had but two bedrooms. Forty-four persons were living in the four overcrowded houses. In two of the houses two families were residing, in the remaining two houses the cause of the overcrowding was the size of the family. Out of the 142 houses inspected 41 had lodgers. The cause of overcrowding is undoubtedly the shortage of houses and the housing scheme of the Council should mitigate this evil. Owing to the shortage of houses no legal action was taken in the cases in which overcrowding existed.

Fitness of houses.

The general standard of housing in the area is dealt with in the paragraph on general housing conditions.

Defective floor, walls and ceilings; want of whitewashing, windows not made to open, and defective yard surface are typical of the defects found to exist in unfit houses. Owing to the shortage of houses, and in many cases to straitened circumstances coupled with the high cost of labour and material, there is a tendency among owners not to carry out repairs until pressed to do so. But in addition to this, waste and neglect on the part of tenants is a contributory cause of unfitness in many cases. This applies particularly to the lower class property.

With regard to unfit houses generally, action is taken under the appropriate sections of the Public Health Act 1875, and the amending acts.

Unhealthy areas.

No complaints have been received no representations made regarding unhealthy areas.

Byelaws relating to houses etc.

Application has been made to the Ministry for the adoption of the model Byelaws relating to Tents, Vans, and Dredes. The Building Byelaws are also being revised and have been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

General.

The Council has a Works Department for the maintenance of property belonging to the Corporation.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925

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Number of new houses erected during the year; -

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately) (b) 72
- (b) With State assistance under Housing Acts;-
 - (i) By the Local Authority 18
 - (ii) By other bodies or persons 26

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

- Inspection- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.) 239
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. 142
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 34

2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 32

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices;-
 - (a) By owners nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. nil.

B.- Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 234
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices;-
 - (a) By owners 237
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil.

C.- Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders. nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made. nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit. nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. nil.
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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Milk Supply.

The bulk of the milk sold in the district is brought in from farms in the country surrounding the area. There are in the Borough; cow-keepers and dairymen 5, Dairymen 17, purveyors of milk 3. The condition of the milk shops and cow sheds is generally satisfactory. The quality of the milk is of a good standard. During the five years 1920-1925 125 samples of milk have been examined and all of these with the exception of three were certified by the Public Analyst as being genuine. The three samples alluded to were all taken from one vendor who keeps but one cow. One of the samples was taken immediately the cow had been milked, the Inspector being present at the time. The Ministry of Health was communicated with on the case.

Meat.

Meat is regularly inspected at the time of slaughter, 965 visits compared with 284 in 1924, being made to slaughter-houses during the year for this purpose. No arrangements are made for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924. The meat Regulations are, on the whole, being properly observed by the meat traders. There has been only one instance of a meat trader who persisted in opening his shop window. However when this trader was threatened with proceedings he closed the window. Legal proceedings were taken against a butcher, who kills only occasionally, for inflating the carcase of a calf. A conviction was obtained and a fine imposed.

There is no public slaughter-house in the Borough. The following table shews the number of private slaughter-houses in use in the area at the dates mentioned; -

	In 1920	In January 1925	In December 1925.
Registered	10	9	9
Licensed	4	5	4
Total	14	14	13

On the whole, these slaughter-houses are in a satisfactory condition but they possess the disadvantages which are inherent in private slaughter-houses.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

During the year 60 samples were taken, 25 being formal and 35 informal. These were as follows; milk 25, butter 11, preserved cream 3, cream 1, black-currant jam 1, strawberry jam 2, cheese 2, lard 4, honey 5, self raising flour 3, egg substitute 3. All these samples were certified as being genuine by the Public Analyst. The average percentage of fat found in the milk samples was 3.72.

Milk and Cream Regulations 1912 & 1917.

1. Milk and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.

	(a)	(b)
Number of samples examined for the presence of a preservative.		Number in which a preservative was reported to be present.
Milk 	25	nil.
Cream 	1	nil.

Cream sold as preserved Cream.

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservative were correct. 3.

1. Correct statements were made	...	...	3
2. Statements incorrect	...	...	nil.
3. Percentage of Preservative found in each sample 0.10%, 0.23%, 0.11%.			

Percentage stated on Statutory label 0.4%.

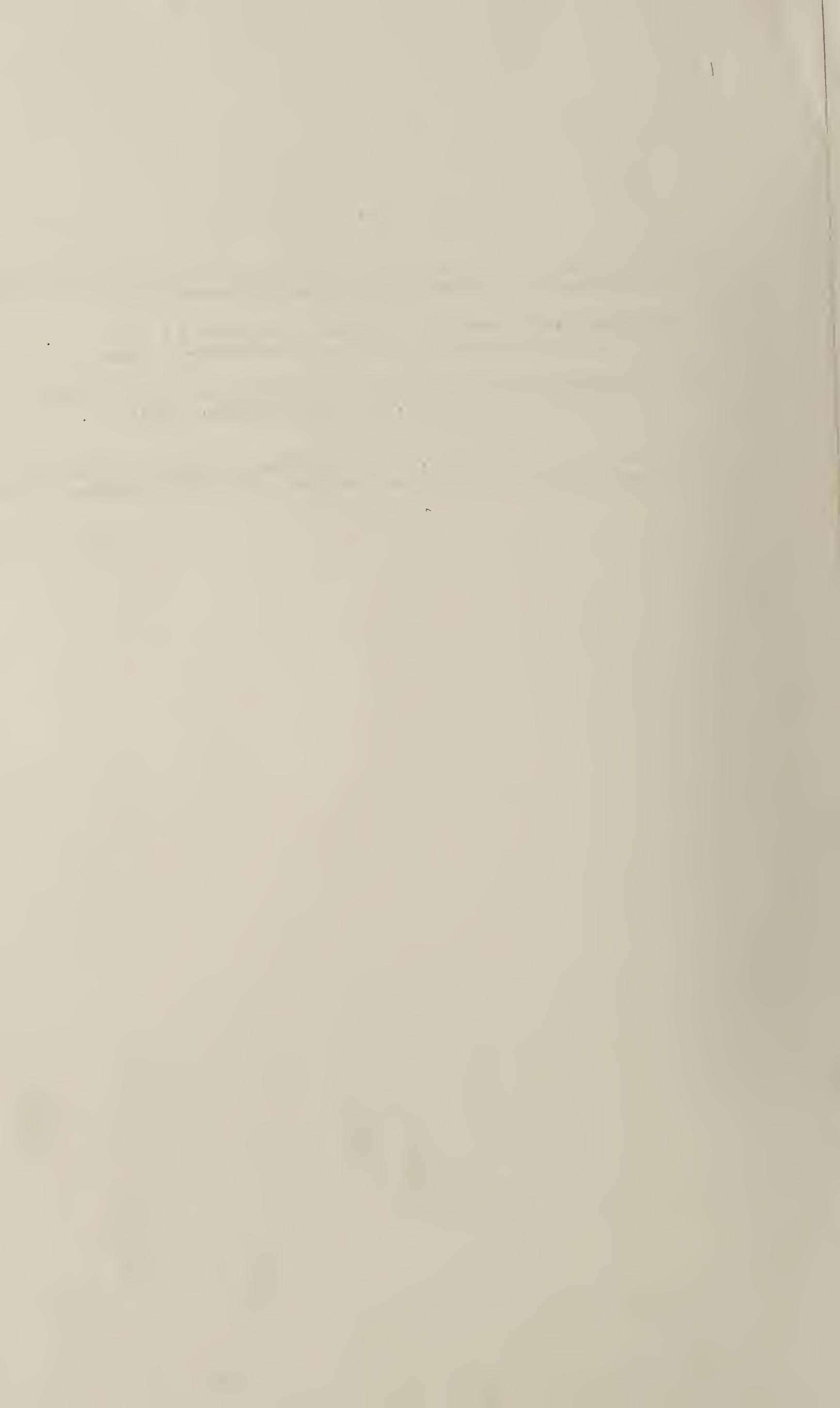
(b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream.

Above 35 per cent	...	...	3.
Below 35 per cent	...	...	nil.

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in, Article E. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed. nil.

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken. Nil.

3. THICKENING SUBSTANCES. Any evidence of their addition to cream or preserved cream. Action taken where found. Nil.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES
-o-Infectious Diseases Generally.

The last four years of the period under review have been characterised by an increased prevalence of scarlet fever compared with the amount of this disease which was experienced in the years 1917 to 1921. During the latter years 61 cases of this disease were notified. From 1922 to 1925, 233 cases were notified. But the disease though more prevalent was mild in type, there being only 4 deaths. The immediately previous period of epidemic incidence was 1915-1916 in which two years 294 cases were notified.

The incidence of diphtheria has been pretty much that usually experienced in the area, but there have been only nine deaths compared with 17 in the previous five years.

The prevalence of and the death-rate from diarrhoeal diseases have been below the average and there has been an entire absence of enteric fever.

Measles and whooping-cough have been epidemic from time to time, particularly in the winter of 1921-22 when two of the schools were closed on account of the prevalence of the latter disease, during the year 1922 when all the Infants Departments were closed on account of measles, and during the latter half of 1925 when whooping-cough was very prevalent. During the five years the deaths from measles have been rather below the number usually experienced, the reverse being the case for whooping-cough although the excess is a small one.

The following table shews the death-rate from influenza compared with that experienced in England and Wales:-

Year	Newcastle	England & Wales
1921	.768	.237
1922	.188	.563
1923	.186	.220

Year	Newcastle	England & Wales.
1924	.559	.489
1925	.371	.32

The disease was principally prevalent at the beginning and end of 1921 and in the latter parts of the years 1923, 1924, and 1925.

The following table shews the number of notifications of and the death-rate from pneumonia:-

Year	No. of Notifications	Death-rate.
1921	5	1.584
1922	7	1.698
1923	13	1.353
1924	24	2.33
1925	22	1.39

Each year considerable numbers of cases of pneumonia remain un-notified and the attention of medical practitioners should be drawn to their obligations under the Regulations of 7th. January 1919.

Under arrangements made by the Staffordshire County Council pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined, free of charge to medical practitioners, at the County Laboratory.

The following table shews the specimens sent:-

	From Isolation Hospital.	By Private Practitioners.
Throat swabs. (for Bacillus Diphtheriae)	89	57
Blood (For Widal Reaction)	3	1
Sputum (For Tubercle Bacilli)	-	10
Total	92	68

Arrangements for Isolation and Disinfection.

Cases of scarlatina and diphtheria, except those which can be nursed at home (a very small percentage of the total number) are isolated in the Newcastle Joint Isolation Hospital, which is a 26 bed hospital serving the Borough and the Newcastle Rural District with a combined estimated population of 27745. There is a high pressure steam disinfecter at the hospital. Houses are disinfected by means of sulphur fumigation. There are facilities for dealing with verminous persons at the local Guardians' Institutions.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1925.

Table 2 shews the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1925 according to specified age groups and the percentage of cases removed to hospital.

Table 3 shews the deaths from such notifiable diseases during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Table 4 shews the notifications of and the deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

Table 3. Cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) Notified during 1925.

Table 3. Deaths from notifiable diseases (other than

3. Deaths from notifiable Tuberculosis during 1925.

Total Number of Deaths

Table 4.

Notifications of and Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases		Deaths			
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0.						
1.						
5.	3	2	1	4	5.	1
10.	3	4	2			
15.	1	2			1	2
20.	2	2			1	1
25.	3	2			1	4
35.	2	2			3	3
45.	6				1	
55.					1	
65 & up- wards.					1	
Totals	20	17	8	6	8	11
					4	1

Of the 24 deaths from tuberculosis 17 or 70.8 per cent had been notified., Of the 19 deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system 15 or 78.9 per cent were notified, and of the 5 deaths from other forms of tuberculosis 3 were notified, a percentage of 60.0. Although these figures are an improvement upon those recently experienced, the attention of medical practitioners should again be drawn to their obligations with regard to the notification of cases of tuberculosis.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

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General Arrangements.

The maternity and child welfare scheme of the town is organised under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Council. This Committee consists of the members of the Council together with five co-opted lady members, three of whom represent the Newcastle Baby welcome Society, which is a voluntary organisation interested in maternity and child welfare.

The Council has in it's service two whole-time nurses who each devote fifty per cent of their time to maternity and child welfare, so that in effect there is one whole-time health visitor. A maternity and child welfare centre is held at the Congregational Church School in King st, each Monday afternoon from two to four thirty. There are two medical officers in attendance at the centre, the Medical Officer of Health, and a part-time medical Officer.

In addition, there are in attendance at the centre the co-opted lady members of the Committee, other members of the voluntary society referred to above, the health visitors and the sewing instructress. The last named conducts a class in the making of baby garments etc. The voluntary society provides tea, for which a small charge is made, and sells dried milk and virol at a fraction over cost price. The babies are weighed and they and their mothers are seen regularly by one or other of the medical officers, such as are ailing are prescribed treatment or are referred to the appropriate agency according to circumstances, health talks are given and grants of free milk are made to necessitous cases.

During the year 1925 the total attendances at the centre were 4132, an average of 86 per session which is the highest yet recorded in the history of the institution.

Of these attendances 3990 were made by infants and young children and 142 by expectant mothers. The number of the latter attending during the year was 25. The relative smallness of the number of expectant mothers attending is a matter for regret, as the minor ills of pregnancy can be dealt with efficiently by advice given at the centre, and in the case of the more serious disabilities the cases can be placed in the way of obtaining appropriate treatment, institutional or otherwise.

The following table shews the maternal mortality from all causes and from puerperal sepsis alone per thousand births, contrasted with the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

Year	All Causes		Sepsis	
	Newcastle	England & Wales	Newcastle	England & Wales
1921	4.8	2.53	1.6	1.38
1922	7.2	2.43	1.8	1.38
1923	4.04	2.52	-	1.3
1924	4.1	2.51	2.05	1.39

Consideration of these tables shews that while the average rate due to sepsis is the same in Newcastle as in England and Wales, the rate due to all causes is higher in Newcastle than in the country generally. This is probably to be accounted for by the relative paucity of hospital beds for the treatment of complications of labour and the puerperium.

During 1925 two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified. One of these cases (treated in hospital) died and the other (treated at home) recovered with vision unimpaired.

